Teacher Recognition

As part of the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities meeting last week, Business & Marketing Technology recognized teachers from around the state who have participated in pilot programs teaching Oracle, IT Fundamentals, and Computer Applications I, II and III.

Before presenting the teachers with certificates of appreciation at the board meeting, Sandra Porter, Business & Marketing program manager, referred to all of the teachers recognized as "pioneers in bringing creative, innovative curriculum to Arkansas' classrooms."

She praised them for giving more than is asked of them to ensure their students can succeed.

Pioneers in bringing the Oracle Internet Academy to Arkansas include Michelle Bones (front row, left), Angela Kichline and Sandra Porter; Matt Cahill of Oracle (second row, left), Rachel Gaston, Marion Carroll, Kim Austin, Gail Young, Lisa Hotsenpiller, Paula Wheeler and Tim Tell; Neil Gibson (back row, left), Steve Kelley, Daniel Moix, Mark Smith, Sherri Keesee, Kendall Wallis and Jeremy Brevell.

Porter also briefed the board members on the three pilot programs. IT Fundamentals is an exploratory course in computers/technology designed for middle school students. To teach this course, teachers attended a weeklong workshop in North Dakota this past summer.

Computer Applications I, II, and III was designed by teachers at Springdale High School. It is a self-paced program that enables high school students to learn programs such as desktop publishing, graphics, etc., without the redundancy of traditional computer courses. Five of the 14 Arkansas schools that have implemented this pilot ptrogram were recognized at the meeting--Bentonville, Conway, Harrison, Mountain Home, and Springdale.

Oracle's Matt Cahill helped honor the teachers who had attended a two-week intensive training session in California in the summer before implementing the Oracle Internet Academy at their schools this fall. Cahill called the Oracle Academy a "business/education partnership in its purest form" that has positioned Arkansas as a national leader in workforce education.

IT Fundamentals teachers recognized include Paula Mooty of Prairie Grove, left, Chris Jennings of Valley View, Jerry Reed of Brookland, and Dephane Burnett of Mena. Not pictured are Alantha Branch and Mark Smith.

Those involved in Computer Applications are Debbie Martin, left, Betty Braswell, Jim Brock of DWE, Kathy Woodcock, Nelda Reed, Marilyn Carrell, Carol Jefferson, Kathy Johnson, Becky Kersey, Sandra Porter of DWE, Donna Ricketts, and Patty Marion.